

1 WE CLAIM:

2 1. A composition comprising:

3 a) a polar solvent; and

4 b) a thickening agent in an amount sufficient to impart to the composition a viscosity

5 of at least 1000 centipoise measured at room temperature, the thickening agent being selected

6 from the group consisting of acrylic acid polymers, polyacrylamides and combinations thereof,

7 wherein the composition is substantially anhydrous.

8 2. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising a beneficial agent.

9 3. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group
10 consisting of acrylic acid polymers.

11 4. A composition as in claim 3 wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group
12 consisting of

13 a) copolymers of C_{10-30} alkyl acrylates with one or more monomers of acrylic acid,
14 methacrylic acid, or one of their C_{1-4} alcohol esters, crosslinked with an allyl ether of sucrose or
15 pentaerythritol;

16 b) polymers of polyacrylic acid crosslinked with from about 0.75% to about 2.0%
17 of polyalkyl sucrose or polyalkyl pentaerythritol

18 c) anionic amphiphilic polymers which comprise 95% to 60% by weight of acrylic
19 recurring structural units, 4% to 40% by weight of acrylate recurring structural units and 0.1% to
20 6% by weight of a crosslinking monomer;

1 d) polymers which comprise 98% to 96% by weight of acrylic recurring structural
2 units, 1% to 4% by weight of acrylate recurring structural units and 0.1% to 0.6% by weight of a
3 crosslinking monomer; and

4 e) copolymers of (meth)acrylic acid and of monomers containing at least one fatty
5 chain, the monomers being selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic monomers with a
6 fatty chain, amphiphilic monomers containing a hydrophobic part with a fatty chain and a
7 hydrophilic part and mixtures thereof

8 5. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent comprises one or more
9 compounds selected from the group consisting of branched or unbranched polyacrylamides and
10 substituted polyacrylamides.

11 6. A composition as in claim 5 wherein the thickening agent comprises a mixture of
12 polyacrylamide, C₁₃-C₁₄ isoparaffin and Laureth 7.

13 7. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about
14 0.05% to about 20% by weight of the composition.

15 8. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about
16 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

17 9. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from
18 about 1% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

19 10. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity greater than about 5,000 cps .

1 11. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity in the range of from about 1000 to about
2 two million centipoise.

3 12. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity in the range of from about 10,000 cps to
4 about 1,000,000 cps.

5 13. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent is a polyol.

6 14. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds
7 selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols.

8 15. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds
9 selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, polyethylene glycol
10 and glycerine.

11 16. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising one or more optional ingredients selected
12 from the group consisting of alcohol co-solvents, acetone, propylene carbonates, preservatives,
13 emollients, humectants, anti-inflammatory agents, antioxidants, insect repellents or skin cooling
14 compounds.

15 17. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
16 consisting of drug agents, medicaments and vitamins.

17 18. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
18 consisting of erythromycin, clindomycin, cephalosporins, and derivatives or pharmaceutically
19 acceptable salts thereof.

1 19. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
2 consisting of ascorbic acid, derivatives of ascorbic acid, retinoic acid, derivatives of retinoic acid
3 and vitamin E.

4 20. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising one or more compounds selected from
5 the group consisting of methylsalicylate and menthol.

6 21. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising a detergent.

7 22. A composition as in claim 21 wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting
8 of sodium cocoyl isethionate, acyl glutamate, alphaolefin sulfonates and sarcosynates.

9 23. A foaming cleanser composition comprising:

10 a polar solvent;

11 a thickening agent selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid polymers,

12 polyacrylamides and combinations thereof; and

13 a synthetic detergent, the composition being substantially anhydrous.

14 24. A foaming cleanser composition as in claim 23 further comprising a beneficial agent.

15 25. A foaming cleanser composition as in claim 23 wherein the detergent is selected from the
16 group consisting of sodium cocoyl isethionate, alphaolefin sulfonates, sarcosynates and acyl
17 glutamates.

18 26. A foaming cleanser as in claim 24 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
19 consisting of benzoyl peroxide and salicylic acid.